

Dear Veteran:

As a result of the Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (HIPAA), the VA has recently changed its policy about patient health information. This policy has to do with:

- How your health information may be used and shared with others.
- Your rights about your health information.
- The VA's legal duty to protect your privacy.

When you get admitted to a healthcare facility as an inpatient, you will be asked if you want to be listed in the "facility directory."

If you choose not to be listed in the facility directory, this is "Directory Opt-Out":

- We cannot let anyone know you are a patient here.
- We cannot give out your name, location, and general health condition to any callers or visitors. This includes family, friends, clergy that are not members of the VA staff, and businesses (for delivery of flowers and cards, for example).

If you cannot make this decision because of health problems, a VA health care provider will make the choice for you. The decision will be based on either your past wishes and/or what is in your best interest.

It is important you understand your privacy rights. The VA has a responsibility to protect your privacy – including your health information. If you have any questions about these rights, please call:

NF/SGVHS Privacy Officer
James White, 1-800-324-8387 ext. 4019

Patient Privacy



It's Your Right



7/03 Revised 6/16/06

Protecting
Your Health Information



<http://www.visn8.med.va.gov/nfsg>